



Attorney's Docket No. 031749/205259

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Ephriam et al. Confirmation No.: 1926
Appl. No.: 09/673,598 Group Art Unit: 2615
Filed: October 18, 2000 Examiner: Y. Aggarwal
For: IMAGE CAPTURE CONTROL

February 18, 2005

BOX ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Sir:

Applicants initially note with appreciation the Examiner's indication in the Notice of Allowance mailed January 25, 2005 that all of the claims are allowed. Applicant, however, has concerns with regard to the wording in the Reasons for Allowance section of the Notice. Specifically, Applicants are concerned with the characterization of the U.S. Patent No. 5,422,670 to Fukui in the reasons for allowance at page 4. While it is true that the system of the '670 Fukui does discontinue resets after a trigger event has occurred, it only stores and uses data following the triggering event. This is not clear in the reasons for allowance.

Specifically, in the '670 Fukui patent, the trigger pulse issued by the position sensor 23 upon detecting movement of the object 22 ceases the supply of reset pulses to the sensor. These reset pulses are effectively continuously sent to the sensor, prior to generation of this trigger pulse. The detector trigger pulse, in fact, causes a "shutter pulse" to be generated (see '670 Fukui col. 1, lines 49-54). The shutter pulse ceases the continuous supply of reset pulses to the sensor, thereby initiating the charge storage period of the sensor (see '670 Fukui col. 2, lines 1-2 and col. 7, lines 14-18), i.e., the sensor only starts integrating charges when the shutter pulse has triggered. As specified at '670 Fukui col. 1, lines 31-34, "no electrical charges are stored in the CCD image sensor during the charge draining period, that is during the time period when the reset pulses are supplied" (making reference to Fig. 1C). In the '670 Fukui system, image data is only captured, stored, and used after the trigger event has occurred, not before and during the

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trigger event. Image data occurring before and at the time of the trigger event is not stored and/or used by the system of the '670 Fukui patent. This interpretation is consistent with the Examiner's characterization of the patentability of the claims stated at page 3, paragraph 4 of the Notice of Allowance.

Applicant respectfully requests that this paper be entered into the file as a record of Applicant's comments concerning the Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

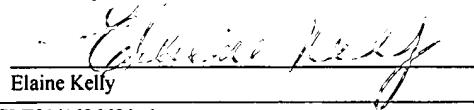


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Box Issue Fee, Commissioner For Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on February 18, 2005.



Elaine Kelly

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